



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES
1141 Bayview Avenue, Suite 101, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

News Release

Contact: Marti Schuman
Phone: (228) 374-5000

MLS-04-134
September 21, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2004-2005 Oyster Season to Open

BILOXI, Miss. – The opening dates of the 2004-2005 Mississippi Oyster Season have been announced by the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (DMR).

The following areas will open **Monday, October 11, 2004**, at legal sunrise for the harvest of oysters:

- **Area II Approved Waters**, which includes Telegraph and Buoy reefs, the Shell Keys referred to as Pelican, Fletcher's and Umbrella, and the southern portion of Pass Marianne Reef **(on a limited basis to conserve the resource)**;
- **Area II "A" Conditionally Approved Waters**, which includes northern portions of the Henderson Point Reef and northern portions of the Pass Christian Reef;
- **Area II "C" Conditionally Approved Waters**, which includes the northern portion of Pass Marianne Reef and southern portions of the Pass Christian and Henderson Point reefs;
- **Area III Conditionally Approved Waters**, which includes Kittiwake (Long Beach) Reef; and
- **Area VIII "B" Conditionally Approved Waters** in east Jackson County.

Check station checkout times shall be 4 **p.m. daily**. This time may change if necessary.

Commercial sack limits will be 25 sacks per day for dredging and 15 sacks per day for tonging. Commercial harvesters are limited to three sacks for personal use per week. (These sacks shall be counted toward the daily commercial sack limit for that boat or vessel.) Recreational harvesters are also limited to three sacks per week for personal use. Personal use oysters **MAY NOT BE SOLD**. Daily commercial sack limits are subject to change.

—MORE—

For Area II and III waters, the designated check stations will be the DMR trailer on the east side of the Pass Christian Harbor or the DMR check station at Bayou Caddy. Check-in/check-out drop boxes will be located at each of these check stations and shall correspond respectively with the drop box.

For Area VIII "B" waters the designated check stations will be the DMR office on Old Stage Road in the Orange Grove community east of Pascagoula.

All 2003 and 2004 shell plant or cultch plant areas will remain closed to the harvest of oysters.

Areas are subject to being closed on short notice in accordance with regulations of the Commission on Marine Resources. These regulations are available at the oyster check stations and at the Department of Marine Resources, 1141 Bayview Ave., Suite 101, Biloxi, Miss., (228) 374-5000.

For more information regarding the open and closed areas, call the 24-hour DMR Oyster Information Hotline at (228) 374-5167 or 1-800-385-5902.

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is dedicated to enhancing, protecting and conserving marine interests of the State by managing all marine life, public trust wetlands, adjacent uplands and waterfront areas to provide for the optimal commercial, recreational, educational and economic uses of these resources consistent with environmental concerns and social changes. Visit the DMR online at www.dmr.state.ms.us.

—END—